

**DEFEND NIGERIAN
TRADE UNIONS**

**STOP STATE
ATTACK**

CDWRN
**campaign for
democratic and
workers' rights in
NIGERIA**

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General Strike stops Nigeria

October 11 to 14 saw the fifth general strike in Nigeria since June 2000.

A massive wave of anger stopped the whole country in protest at the latest 25% hike in fuel prices. Most Nigerians do not see why they, living as they do in an oil-producing country, have to pay more for fuel when the world price goes up but the cost of oil production has not. If the government does not back down and withdraw the price rise the strike will resume in two weeks time.

The price increases are part of the government's neo-liberal programme. It is not accidental that the Financial Times in London commented: "The International Monetary Fund and western governments are enthusiastic about the programme" (12 October 2004).

Faced with this massive show of anger the government has attempted to intimidate union leaders and activists with arrests and violence, including shooting a 12 year old boy. In Lagos police stood by and watched as an armed group attacked trade unionists checking on picket lines.

In Nigeria the CDWRN (Campaign for Democratic and Workers' Rights in Nigeria) is extremely active in supporting the strike and is appealing internationally for solidarity and practical support for this struggle.

We ask that organisations pass resolutions in solidarity with this struggle and against the attacks being made against trade unionist and other activists. These should be sent to Nigerian Embassies and High Commissions with copies to our above address.

Financial assistance would also greatly aid our activities and donations, made payable to "Campaign for Democratic and Workers' Rights in Nigeria", can be sent to our PO Box in London from where they will be forwarded to Nigeria.

Rufus Olusewsan,

*Chairperson, CDWRN, Lagos, Nigeria and member of the National Executive Committee,
Steel and Engineering Workers' Union of Nigeria*

Victor Osakwe, Secretary of CDWRN, Lagos, Nigeria